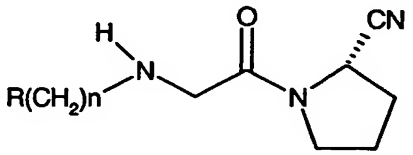
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of modulating hyperlipidemia and/or conditions associated with hyperlipidemia comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein

R is substituted adamantyl; and

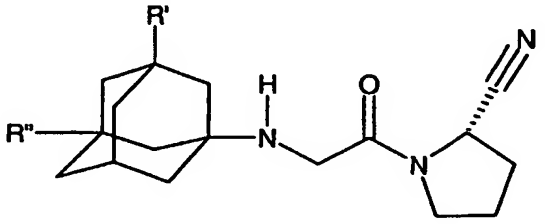
N is 0 to 3; in free form or in acid addition salt form.

2. Use of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for modulating hyperlipidemia and/or conditions associated with hyperlipidemia.

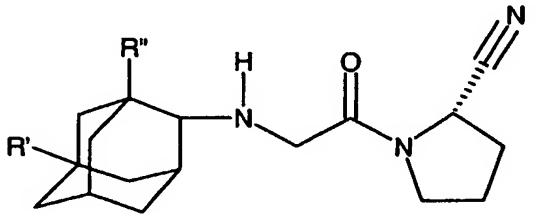
3. Pharmaceutical composition for modulating hyperlipidemia and/or conditions associated with hyperlipidemia comprising a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A combination, which comprises (a) a compound of formula I, and at least one compound selected from (b) an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent, such as a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor, e.g., an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor, a squalene epoxidase inhibitor or a squalene synthetase inhibitor; an ACAT inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof and niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; an LDL receptor inducer; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; fibrates; vitamin B6 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B12; vitamin B3; anti-oxidant vitamins; a β–blocker; an angiotensin II receptor (AT_1) antagonist; an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; a renin inhibitor, and a platelet aggregation inhibitor, a fibrinogen receptor antagonists, a glycoprotein IIb/IIIa fibrinogen receptor antagonists; and aspirin.

5. A method of claim 1, use of claims 2 or 3 and combination of claim 4, wherein the compound of formula I is a compound selected from a compound of formulae IA or IB:



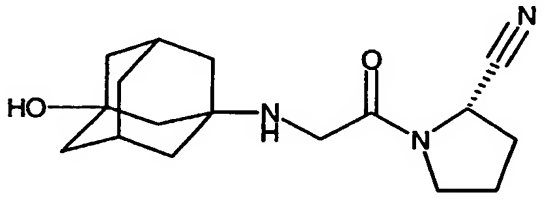
(IA)



(IB)

wherein R' represents hydroxy, C_1-C_7alkoxy, C_1-C_8-alkanoyloxy, or R_5 R_4 N--CO--O--, where R_4 and R_5 independently are C_1-C_7alkyl or phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by a substituent selected from C_1-C_7alkyl, C_1-C_7alkoxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl and where R_4 additionally is hydrogen; or R_4 and R_5 together represent C_3-C_6alkylene; and R" represents hydrogen; or R' and R" independently represent C_1-C_7alkyl; in free form or in form of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt.

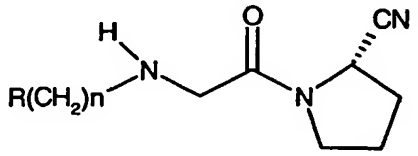
6. A method of claim 1, use of claims 2 or 3 and combination of claim 4, wherein the compound of formula I is a compound of formula IC.



(IC)

7. A method of claim 1 or use of claims 2 or 3, wherein the conditions associated with hyperlipidemia are selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, angina pectoris, carotid artery disease, cerebral arteriosclerosis, xanthoma, CHD, ischemic stroke, restenosis after angioplasty, peripheral vascular disease, intermittent claudication, reduction in necrosis after myocardial infarction, dyslipidemia, post-prandial lipemia.

8. A method of modulating hyperlipidemia and/or conditions associated with hyperlipidemia comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein

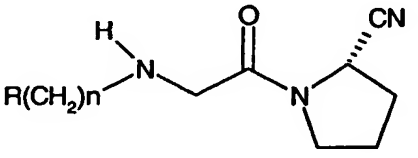
R is substituted adamantyl;

N is 0 to 3; in free form or in acid addition salt form; and

another active agent.

9. A method of lowering LDL, Lp(a) and/or VLDL levels in a mammal comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I and another active agent.

10. Use of a combination comprising a compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein

R is substituted adamantyl;

N is 0 to 3; in free form or in acid addition salt form; and

another active agent, for the manufacture of a medicament for modulating hyperlipidemia, for modulating conditions associated with hyperlipidemia and/or for lowering VLDL, LDL and Lp(a) levels in a mammal.

11. Method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10 wherein the compound of formula I is a compound of formula IC.

12. Method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent, such as a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor, e.g., an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor, a squalene epoxidase inhibitor or a squalene synthetase inhibitor; an ACAT inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof and niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; an LDL receptor inducer; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; fibrates; vitamin B6 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B12; vitamin B3; anti-oxidant vitamins; a β–blocker; an angiotensin II receptor (AT_1) antagonist; an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; a renin inhibitor, and a platelet aggregation inhibitor, a fibrinogen receptor antagonists, a glycoprotein IIb/IIIa fibrinogen receptor antagonists; and aspirin.

13. Method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10, wherein the conditions associated with hyperlipidemia are selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, angina pectoris, carotid artery disease, cerebral arteriosclerosis, xanthoma, CHD, ischemic stroke, restenosis after angioplasty, peripheral vascular disease, intermittent claudication, reduction in necrosis after myocardial infarction, dyslipidemia, post-prandial lipemia.

14. Combination according to claim 4, method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10, wherein the active agent (b) is selected from the group consisting of , statins; bile acid-binding resins; nicotinic acid, probucol, β–carotene, vitamin E or vitamin C.

15. Combination according to claim 4, method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10, wherein the active agent (b) is selected from the group consisting of fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin or simvastatin.

16. Combination according to claim 4, method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10, wherein the compound of formula I is a compound of formula IC and wherein the active agent (b) is selected from the group consisting of fluvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin or simvastatin.

17. Combination according to claim 4, method according to claims 8-9 or use according to claim 10, wherein the combination is a combined preparation or a pharmaceutical composition.